



Potential Environmental Impacts

Many facilities have outside processes, storage areas and/or material handling areas. Stormwater contacting these outdoor areas can carry pollutants such as oils, solvents, and heavy metals directly into streams or other surface waters, killing aquatic life and polluting areas where people swim, fish and boat. Some activities that are potential sources of stormwater runoff pollution include:

- Outdoor storage including vehicles, tires, parts, drums or other containers,
- Washing of vehicles or equipment outside,
- Compactor and dumpster leakage,
- Open topped dumpsters,
- Truck loading docks: spillage, pavement drains,
- Shop floor washwater directed outside,
- Internal floor drains or trenches connected to storm drains, and/or
- Dismantling of vehicles outside.



Outside dismantling area contaminated with improperly drained vehicle fluids

Legal Requirements

- ◆ The CT-DEP has developed general permits to cover the discharge of stormwater runoff. [CGS Section 22a-430]

The following facilities must register for the “General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity”:

- Any auto recyclers, scrap yards, or battery reclaimers.
- Any transportation facilities involved in vehicle or equipment maintenance, including federal, state, or municipal public works garages.

The following facilities must register for “General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity”:

- Any auto dealers, gas stations, or auto repair facilities, which have 5 acres or more of contiguous impervious surface (including roofs, paved parking, roadways and sidewalks).
- ◆ If your facility does not fall under categories mentioned above, best management practices must still be used to prevent illegal discharges.
- ◆ A stormwater discharge means the discharge of precipitation runoff from any conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, channel, or swale that is used for collecting and conveying stormwater from areas related to the commercial or industrial activities at the site.

- ◆ Both general permits require the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which is a document outlining the facility's potential pollutant sources, training, good housekeeping and other best management practices to prevent pollutants from getting into stormwater runoff. Annual sampling of stormwater is also required. Sampling may be waived after one year of good results.
- ◆ Any interior floor drains that connect to storm sewers, ground, groundwater, or surface water and do not have a permit are illegal in Connecticut [CGS Section 22a-430]. Interior floor drains must be connected to either a sanitary sewer or a holding tank, may require an oil and grit separator and can be permitted under the "General Permit for the Discharge of Vehicle Maintenance Wastewater" (see the Shop Wastewater fact sheet).
- ◆ For copies of the general permits, a guidance document for preparing a stormwater pollution prevention plan, or for more information about the requirements, call the CT-DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (860) 424-3018 or visit the "Permits, Licenses, and Registrations" section of the DEP website at www.dep.state.ct.us/pao/download.htm#WaterGP.

Best Management Practices

- ★ Prevent leaks and spills. When removing vehicle fluids, always use a drain pan or vacuum system to capture the fluids. Place drip pans or pads under stored vehicles with leaks.
- ★ Clean up spills immediately. Have spill kits with absorbent materials and brooms, shovels, or scoops readily available around the work areas.
- ★ Handle fluids properly. After you remove vehicle fluids, store the fluids in clearly labeled containers with secondary containment.
- ★ Store oily parts in a way that avoids exposure to rain or snow. This can include storing parts indoors, under a permanent roof on an impervious surface, in leak-proof covered containers, in vehicle bodies or under temporary cover (like tarps).

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-----|
| ✓ Do you have spill kits readily available in work areas? | YES | NO | N/A |
| ✓ Do you store oily parts under some type of cover? | YES | NO | N/A |



Did You Know?

Pollutants carried in storm drainage systems now make up between 50% and 90% of all pollutants reaching Connecticut's surface waters.

2004 Pit Stops Fact Sheets

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
 Office of Pollution Prevention (860) 424-3297 www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/vehicle/abindex.htm
 Fact Sheet: DEP-P2-PITSTOPS-FS-015

Last Updated: August, 2004